

Remarks

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner:

(1) rejected claims 1-5, 8, 10-18, 23-31 and 32 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pellegrino et al. in view of DeLaHuerger;

(2) rejected claims 6, 7 and 9 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pellegrino et al. in view of DeLaHuerger, further in view of Belknap et al.;

(3) rejected claim 19 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pellegrino et al. in view of DeLaHuerger, further in view of Lee et al.; and

(4) rejected claims 20-22 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pellegrino et al. in view of DeLaHuerger, further in view of Linton.

In response to Item 1 above, Applicant has now amended independent claims 1 and 32 so as to more clearly define the present invention with respect to the prior art of record.

Amended claim 1 comprises a system for delivering an educational program to a participant at a remote site, the system comprising prompting means for prompting the participant for a response during the educational program to verify that the participant actively works through the educational program, the prompting means terminating the educational program when the response is inadequate from the participant, wherein program credit is awarded based on viewing the education program rather than passing specific examinations.

Applicant believes that Pellegrino et al. disclose a system for delivering an educational program to a participant at a remote side, and a logon page for directing the user to various home pages. Applicant has carefully reviewed Pellegrino et al. and believes that Pellegrino et al. do not teach or suggest prompting means for prompting a participant for a response during an educational program to verify that the participant actively works through an educational program.

Applicant further believes that DeLaHuerga discloses a data collection system for securing, gathering, storing, and accessing information used in a hospital. Applicant has carefully reviewed DeLaHuerga and believes that DeLaHuerga does not teach or suggest prompting means for prompting a participant for a response during an educational program to verify that the participant actively works through an educational program.

Applicant believes that neither Pellegrino et al. nor DeLaHuerga, either alone or in combination with one another, teach or suggest the prompting means of the present invention for prompting a participant for a response during an educational program to verify that the participant actively works through the educational program, and the prompting means terminating the education program when the response is inadequate from the participant, wherein program credit is awarded based on viewing the educational program rather than passing specific examinations. Applicant believes that each of Pellegrino et al. and DeLaHuerga teach away from the present invention as claimed in that each one is configured to allow secure access to data within a system rather than provide prompting means which verify

that a participant actively works through an educational program. Applicant further believes that DeLaHuerger is not prior art with respect to the above-identified patent application inasmuch as DeLaHuerger discloses a system for providing secure access to hospital data rather than a system for delivering an educational program. Accordingly, independent claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Amended claim 32 comprises a method for delivering an educational program to a participant at a remote site, the method comprising prompting the participant for a response during the educational program to verify that the participant actively works through the educational program, and terminating the educational program when the response is inadequate from the participant, wherein program credit is awarded based on viewing the educational program rather than passing specific examinations. For at least the reasons identified herein above, Applicant believes that neither Pellegrino et al. nor DeLaHuerger, either alone or in combination with one another, teach or suggest a method for delivering an educational program to a participant at a remote site, the method comprising prompting a participant for a response during an education program to verify that the participant actively works through the education program, and terminating the educational program when the response is inadequate from the participant, wherein program credit is awarded based on viewing the educational program rather than passing specific examinations. Applicant believes that each of Pellegrino et al. and DeLaHuerger teach

away from the present invention as claimed in that each one is configured to allow secure access to a system rather than provide prompting means which terminate an educational program when a response is inadequate from the participant. Applicant further believes that DeLaHuerga is not prior art with respect to the above-identified patent application inasmuch as DeLaHuerga discloses a method for providing secure access to hospital data rather than a method for delivering an educational program. Accordingly, independent claim 32 is believed to be in condition for allowance, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-5, 8, 10-28 and 23-31, which depend either directly or ultimately from independent claim 1, are believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the above-identified reasons. Accordingly, allowance of claim 2-5, 8, 10-18 and 23-31 is respectfully requested.

In response to Items 2-4 above, Beiknap et al., Lee et al., and Linton have been carefully reviewed, and Applicant believes that none of the prior art of record, either alone or in combination with one another, teach or suggest prompting means for prompting a participant for a response during an educational program to verify that the participant actively works through the educational program. Claims 6, 7, 9 and 19-22, which depend either directly or ultimately from independent claim 1, are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons identified hereinabove. Accordingly, allowance of claims 6, 7, 9 and 19-22 is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, claims 1-32 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration is therefore respectfully requested.

In the event that any fees may be required in this matter, please charge the same to Deposit Account No. 16-0221.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

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